

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

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R 301030Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1745

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION USUN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

USMISSION USNATO

DIA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: OVIP PFOR CY XF

SUBJ: MAKARIOS RETURNS FROM PERSIAN (ARAB) GULF

REF: (A) NICOSIA 1680 (B) MANAMA 597 (C) MUSCAT 594

1. SUMMARY: MAKARIOS RETURNED FROM GULF ON MAY 28, CLAIMING TO HAVE GAINED MORE ECONOMIC/TECHNICAL COOPERATION AND POLITICAL "UNDERSTANDING" FROM HIS ARAB HOSTS. PRESS COVERAGE MUTED. GOC GAVE ARAB STATES MORE RHETORICAL SUPPORT THAN IT RECEIVED IN RETURN. END SUMMARY.

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2. ARCHBISHOP MAKARIOS RETURNED TO CYPRUS MAY 28. AT LARNACA

AIRPORT, HE LABORED TO PORTRAY "USEFUL AND BENEFICIAL" RESULTS OF HIS VISITS TO BAHRAIN, QATAR, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES (UAE), AND KUWAIT. (TRIP TO MUSCAT CANCELLED - REF C.) HE CLAIMED THAT (1) TRIPS HAD "LAID FOUNDATIONS FOR CLOSER COOPERATION IN VARIOUS FIELD"; (2) ECONOMIC/TECHNICAL AGREEMENTS "SHOULD BE SIGNED SHORTLY" WITH UAE, KUWAIT; (3) TURK PROPAGANDA THAT RELIGION CAUSES INTERCOMMUNAL FRICTIONS ON CYPRUS HAD NOT "SO FAR BEEN EFFECTIVE" IN ARAB WORLD; (4) ARAB LEADERS SHOWED "MUCH UNDERSTANDING" FOR CYPRUS CAUSE, AND SUPPORTED GOC EFFORTS TO RESTORE "INDEPENDENCE AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF OUR ISLAND". ARCHBISHOP DUCKED DIRECT QUESTION AS TO WHETHER HE HAD RECEIVED "PROMISES FOR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO RECONSTRUCT OUR ECONOMY".

3. MAKARIOS GAVE FAMILIAR ANSWERS TO OTHER QUESTIONS ON:

A. GOG-GOT TALKS. HE SAID THAT CYPRUS PROBLEM SHOULD NOT BE ADDED TO LIST OF OTHER BILATERAL ISSUES IN CONTEXT ANKARA-ATHENS "PACKAGE DEAL". HE SAW NO DANGER THAT KARAMANLIS-DEMIREL TALKS WOULD LEAD TO THIS END, BECAUSE INTER ALIA KARAMANLIS WANTS "CYPRUS PROBLEM TO REMAIN WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF UN." ARCHBISHOP DID NOT BELIEVE THAT NATO MEETINGS IN BRUSSELS WOULD LEAD TO "DEINTERNATIONALIZATION" OF CYPRUS PROBLEM.

B. CYPRUS AND MIDDLE EAST. HE REPEATED WELL-WORN THEME THAT CYPRUS PROBLEM "GENERALLY LINKED" TO MIDDLE EAST SITUATION, THAT DEVELOPMENTS IN ONE AREA IMPINGE ON THE OTHER.

C. USG. BECAUSE TURKEY DEPENDS ON AMERICA "TO CONSIDERABLE EXTENT", USG "COULD EXERT PRESSURE ON TURKEY". DISCLAIMING ANY INFORMATION ON SECRETARY'S VISIT TO ANKARA, ARCHBISHOP SAID HE "MAY LEARN MORE" NOW THAT HE HAS RETURNED.

D. TALKS. MAKARIOS REITERATED OPPOSITION TO "STEP-BY-STEP" APPROACH TO RESOLUTION OF CYPRUS PROBLEM.

E. BRITISH SBA'S. ASKED ABOUT HIS COMMENTS IN KUWAIT RE SBA'S (FBIS TA281102Z NOTAL), MAKARIOS AVOIDED DETAILS BUT SAID STANDARD GOC POSITION IS THAT "WE WANT CYPRUS FREE FROM BASES AND FOREIGN TROOPS."

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4. PRO-MAKARIOS PRESS (COMMUNIST HARAVGHI, LYSSARIDES' TA NEA, SEMIOFFICIAL PHILELEFTHEROS) PLAYED UP MAKARIOS RETURN AND STATEMENTS; OTHERS GAVE THEM SHORT SHRIFT. IN GENERAL, LOCAL GREEK PRESS SKIMPED ON COVERAGE OF THIS TRIP, PRIMARILY DUE OTHER PRE-OCCUPATIONS (E.G., SECRETARY'S VISIT TO ANKARA, NATO MEETINGS). TURK COMMENTARY ALSO LIMITED, BUT PREDICTABLY HOSTILE: RADIO BAYRAK SAID THAT ARAB LEADERS WILL "REALIZE MEANING OF BYZANTINE INTRIGUE AFTER MEETING THE ARCHBISHOP".

5. COMMENT: DURING VISITS, MAKARIOS MISSED NO CHANCE TO DECLARE GOC SUPPORT FOR ARAB CAUSE, RIGHTS OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. WE SEE NO SIGN, HOWEVER, THAT ANY ARAB LEADER SIMILARLY BACKED GOC POSITION IN CYPRUS PROBLEM. MAKARIOS MAY WELL HAVE SECURED SOME FURTHER ECONOMIC/TECHNICAL COOPERATION WITH ARAB STATES IN GULF, BUILDING ON GOOD RECORD OF NUMEROUS GREEK CYPRIOTS ALREADY THERE. EVIDENCE SO FAR DOES NOT SHOW THAT HE REAPED ANY CORRESPONDING POLITICAL GAIN. END COMMENT.
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